

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1079

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 11174

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE SEAMEN'S UNION MISSION ON FISHERIES ISSUE

REF: (A) TOKYO 11136, (B) TOKYO 10784

1. SEAMEN'S UNION (KAIIN) INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR KIHATA INFORMED LABATT JULY 23 THAT ON BASIS OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM SEAFARER'S INTERNATIONAL UNION, THREE MAN KAIIN DELEGATION LEAVING FOR U.S. JULY 28. TO PRESENT ITS VIEWS ON 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE. KIHATA SAID, HOWEVER, THAT TO DISTRESS OF HIMSELF AND OTHER MODERATES IN UNION, KAIIN VICE PRESIDENT KAZUKIYO DOI, WHOM THEY REGARD AS JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY SYMPATHIZER, HAS PERSUADED UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD TO DESIGNATE HIM AS HEAD OF DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO KIHATA, DOI PLANS TO EXPLOIT U.S. TRIP, PARTICULARLY ANY HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN OR UNION LEADERS, BY CLAIMING ON HIS RETURN TO JAPAN THAT HE AND EXTREME LEFT POINT OF VIEW HE REPRESENTS WITHIN KAIIN ARE ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. COUNTERPARTS. KIHATA HOPED THAT MISSION WOULD THEREFORE NOT REPEAT NOT BE GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT IN U.S.

2. OTHER MEMBERS OF MISSION ARE TOSHIO FUTAMI, KAIIN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER AND SHINJI OSAWA, PRESIDENT OF TOKYO-BASED LOCAL TO WHICH MANY FISHERMEN ARE AFFILIATED.

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3. COMMENT: MAIN PURPOSE OF KAIIN MISSION WAS AND IS

EFFORT TO CONVINCE U.S. LABOR COUNTERPARTS THAT ENFORCE-
MENT BY U.S. OF 200 MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE WILL
HAVE VERY SERIOUS ECONOMIC IMPACT ON JAPANESE FISHERMEN.
HOWEVER, KAIIN MODERATES, WHO RECENTLY FORMED "DEMOCRA-
TIZATION MOVEMENT" TO CURB COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN UNION
BY OUSTING VICE PRES. DOI FROM HIS POST AT KAIIN'S NEXT
CONVENTION, ASSUMED MISSION, BY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE
OF CLOSE TIES WITH U.S., COULD SERVE THEIR ANTI-COMMUNIST
GOAL AS WELL. THEY HAVE BEEN OUTMANUEVERED BY DOI WHO,
UTILIZING HIS ACKNOWLEDGED FISHERIES EXPERTISE, HAS
PERSUADED KAIIN EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT HE MOST SUITABLE
LEADER OF DELEGATION. END COMMENT.
SHOESMITH

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